Bird flu

*53. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Health Organisation has warned of spready of Bird Flu in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken measures to check spreading of Bird Flu in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) World Health Organization (WHO) has issued an alert that Bird Flu could spread to India and other countries from the very first time that the current outbreak of Avian Influenza Virus (H5NI) was first detected in the Republic of Korea in December, 2003.

Subsequently, cases in poultry and birds were reported in eleven other countries namely: China, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. 130 Human cases with 67 deaths were reported from five countries namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and China (As on 17.11.2005)

No case of Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) has been reported in India either in humans or birds.

However, Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza into India and to contain the disease if it has to happen in poultry or humans. The measures instituted are:

- A joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation ever since the WHO alerted the global community and advising appropriate actions to the Government.

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has prepared and circulated an Action Plan for State Animal Husbandry Departments in respect of Bird Flu for taking action in case of suspicion of outbreak of the disease and also in the event of outbreak of highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A conference of the State Secretaries of Animal Husbandry was held regarding preparedness in case of outbreak of the disease.

- Department of Animal Husbandry has intensified surveillance and disease intelligence. Samples so far tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal, were found negative. Training has been imparted to the staff of the State Wildlife and the Animal Husbandry Department, how to collect and dispatch the samples to the laboratory for testing.

- There is a total ban in place against import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak. Even birds (grand parent stock of poultry etc.) imported from highly pathogenic avian influenza free countries, are subjected to quarantine and screening.

- Department of Environment and Forests has issued instructions to all their Wild Life Wardens to keep a watch on death of migratory birds in identified water bodies. Any unusual death among migratory birds would immediately be brought to the notice of Department of Animal Husbandry.

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is regularly reviewing the situation. A National Consultation Meeting on Pandemic Preparedness was held on 1st August, 2005, with all stakeholders to finalize pandemic preparedness and Response Plan.

- A contingency plan for managing human cases of avian influenza has been finalized detailing immediately action to be taken to deal with any suspected outbreak. The state level action plan will be discussed with the State Governments shortly.

- The components of the action plan such as hospital strengthening, Influenza Surveillance Network, Laboratory strengthening in terms of bio-safety labs, personal protective equipments, stockpiling of

drugs and Information Education Communication are being taken up in a phased manner.

- An Inter Ministerial Task Force has been constituted under Chairmanship of Secretary (H&FW) to ensure availability of drugs, vaccines and all other aspects for management of Avian Influenza in the country.
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases has been identified as the nodal agency for monitoring Avian Influenza and for investigating outbreaks. Under the aegis of ICMR, an Human Influenza surveillance network has been operationalized.
- The situation has also been reviewed by Committee of Secretaries (on a monthly basis) and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Cases in District Consumer Courts

*54. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new cases registered in various District Consumer Courts during 2004 in the country;

(b) the total number of old cases pending disposal as on 1st January, 2004;

(c) out of total cases, how many were disposed of during 2004 and whether the disposal was more than new registrations;

(d) whether inordinate delay is being caused in the disposal of consumer cases; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures intended to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) As per information made available by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), the total number of new cases registered in various District Consumer Courts during 2004 in the country is 1,30,220. During 2004, 1,19,807 were disposed of. The total number of cases pending disposal, as on 01.01.2004, is 2,38,883.